

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for dispensing postage in response to a transaction request received by a postage meter vendor over the Internet from a customer, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a first meter license from the Post, said first meter license being associated with a first online meter account assigned to a the postage meter vendor;

receiving information from the customer, said information corresponding to the transaction requested and payment method;

~~determining an origin of deposit postal code for the requested transaction;~~

processing the requested transaction by creating evidence of postage payment and effecting payment for the transaction based on the information received from the customer;

accounting for the created evidence of postage payment in the meter account assigned to the postage meter vendor; and

sending the evidence of postage payment to the customer.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining an origin of deposit postal code for the requested transaction ~~wherein the origin of deposit postal code is included in the information received from the customer.~~

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, the information received from the customer includes a username, password and credit card information whereby a personal account is established for subsequent transactions.

Claims 4-8 (Cancelled)

9. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the origin of deposit postal code is included in the information received from the customer.

10. (New) A method for a postage vendor to dispense postage via a network comprising:

receiving a request for postage from a customer;

processing the request for postage by creating evidence of postage payment;

accounting for the created evidence of postage payment in a postal account assigned to the postage vendor; and

sending the evidence of postage payment to the customer via the network.

11. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the evidence of postage payment includes a transaction number.

12. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein receiving a request for postage from a customer further comprises:

receiving information to identify the customer.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the information to identify the customer includes at least one of a user name and a password.